



ENCOUNTERS WITH
CHRIST
Jesus' Life in the Gospel of John

Digging Deeper Week 2
*Christ's Encounter with
Anxious People*

Read John 6:1-7

... How do I see my needs

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" John 6:5-7

One word summarizes Philip's reaction: OVERWHELMED

With Jesus, an impossible situation is an OPPORTUNITY

1. How do you tend to react when you feel overwhelmed?

2. What have I decided is too BIG for God to handle?

Rene mentioned in the DVD that this incredible miracle began as an unwelcome interruption in their day.

3. When has an interruption been used by God in your life to do something great? How can you make room in you life for these divine appointments (interruptions)?

...How do I measure my resources?

Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" John 6:8-9

One word summarizes Andrew's reaction: DISCOURAGED

With Jesus, limited resources are PLENTY

Read John 6:8-15

4. What surprise or intrigues you about this passage?

5. How do you tend to react when you feel under resourced?

6. What have I decided is too LITTLE for God to work with?

Read John 6:16-24

...How do I react to my storms?

One word summarizes the disciple_s reaction: TERRIFIED

With Jesus, a storm becomes a PATH

7. What are two positive ways you react when you are going through a storm and what are two negative ways?

8. What have I decided is too ROUGH for God to navigate?

In what area of your life do you need to hear the words, “It’s me; don’t fear” from Jesus?

“And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the son of God.” Matt. 14:33

9. How does rightly viewing God change your perspective and perseverance in a storm?

Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

John 6:28, 29

10. Take a silent moment before God and ask this question – Am I working for my Salvation or am I simply believing in Jesus? If you are comfortable share this with the group as your prayer request.

Other Questions To Ponder

More than 5000 people saw a miracle with the bread and fish. The disciples saw another miracle when Jesus walked on the water. The rest of the crowd assumed some kind of miracle because they knew he didn't get into the boat but he still got to Capernaum. When they find him, Jesus sort of reprimands them for seeking him because he gave them food; and they wanted more, instead of what He represented. After this, they ask what they must do to do the works of God. Jesus gives them a short answer: "Believe in Me". Then after already experiencing 2 miracles they want him to do another one just so they can believe its really Him. Jesus' reaction is very telling. He doesn't perform another miracle, instead he informs them that he is the "Bread of Life". And when he is done, even after seeing the miracles, they doubt who he is because they know him and his parents, how could this man have come from heaven. After he talked of His flesh and blood they became even more agitated and many of his new disciples (none of the 12) left him.

- 1. With all these people seeing the miracles one would think it would be enough for them to believe that Jesus was sent by God. Yet a majority don't. They wanted more miracles for proof. Were miracles so common in these times that they could discount them as fallacy? Why do you think Jesus didn't perform just one more miracle? Would we be just as skeptical? We are believers 2000 years removed with no miracles, why do we believe and they didn't? Discuss this as a group.**
- 2. How do you think Jesus felt when so many people deserted him? Obviously, he knew it was going to happen since he was Jesus. But he was still human with human emotions. How would we have felt in his place? What can we learn from his reaction?**